

School District of Athens
Wisconsin Act 55 Notice Requirements
Updated January 2024

District Public Schools

The School District of Athens offers the following public educational school options for resident attendance area students and students choosing to open enroll from non-resident districts.

Elementary School: Athens Elementary School (K4-5)

Middle School: Athens Middle School (6-8)

High School: Athens High School (9-12)

Charter School

Charter schools are public, nonsectarian schools created through a businesslike contract or "charter" between the charter governance board and the sponsoring school board or other chartering authority. The Wisconsin charter school law gives charter schools freedom from most state rules and regulations in exchange for greater accountability for results. The charter defines the missions and methods of the charter school. The chartering authority holds the school accountable to its charter. The charter school motto is "Autonomy for Accountability."

We have one Charter School in the School District of Athens:

Maple Grove Charter School (K-5)

Private School - Choice Program School (Voucher Schools)

The Private School Choice Program in our region is based on where the student resides. Eligibility in our resident attendance area pertains only to the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program or statewide program (WPCP). Schools participating in the program receive a state aid payment for each eligible student on behalf of the student's parent or guardian. Additionally, applicants may be required to meet income and age requirements. See the Frequently Asked Questions below for additional information on program requirements.

There are two participating schools within our district boundaries that are identified Private School Choice Program schools:

Trinity Lutheran School (K-8)

St. Anthony's Catholic School (K-8)

Special Needs Voucher Program

The School District of Athens hereby acknowledges this section to serve as our required notification the parents/ guardians of each child in our district who have a disability and are enrolled in our school district of the new Special Needs Scholarship Program (private school voucher program), which began in the 2016-17 school year and the program is available to students with an individualized education program (IEP) who meet specified conditions outlined in state law. Further details of this program will be forthcoming from the Department of Public Instruction.

Virtual Schools:

RVA Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) is a public school, with the same accreditation and accountability as our local brick and mortar school. The difference is, RVA has the freedom to teach your children the way they learn best. Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) was originally created to help improve our nation's public school system and offer parents another public schooling option to better meet their child's specific needs.

Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, the School District of Athens became a partner with the RVA Consortium. As a result of this relationship our students may access two "elective" online classes, as well as, access to a full time virtual pathway option. There are no other "Virtual Schools" that lie within the School District of Athens resident attendance area. To see a complete list of operating "Virtual Schools" within the State please refer to the Department of Public Instruction website at: dpi.wi.gov/imt/digital-learning/virtual-schools.

Full-Time Open Enrollment

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

Any Wisconsin resident in five-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program. Additionally, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or four-year-old kindergarten only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district.

The regular open enrollment application period for each school year typically starts at the beginning of February of the preceding school year and ends at 4:00 pm on April 30. The best way to apply is online via a link on the DPI website.

An alternative application procedure allows pupils to apply for open enrollment at any time during a school year if certain criteria are met. Additional information regarding the alternative application procedure can be found on the DPI Open Enrollment – Parent Page.

For your convenience, please refer to the Department of Instruction website for further information at: <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>.

Part-Time Open Enrollment

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, a pupil enrolled in a public school in the high school grades may attend public school in a nonresident school district for the purpose of taking a course offered by the nonresident school district. A pupil may attend no more than two courses at any time in nonresident school districts. Wis. Stat. 118.52.

Prior to the start of the 2018-19 school year, the Course Options program requirements were still in place. Additional information can be found on the Course Options webpage at the Department of Public Instruction.

Early College Credit Program

The Youth Options statute (118.55) was renamed the Early College Credit Program (ECCP). The ECCP statute allows Wisconsin public and private high school students to take one or more courses at an institution of higher education for high school and/or college credit. Under this section, “institution of higher education” means an institution within the University of Wisconsin System, a tribally controlled college, or a private, nonprofit institution of higher education located in the state. While technical colleges are not eligible institutions under the new program, pupils that have completed 10th grade will continue to have the option to take courses at technical colleges through a separate statute, 38.12(14). School districts should contact the Wisconsin Technical College System listed below for more information on technical college dual credit options. All changes are effective 7/1/2018. 3.

Youth Apprenticeship Program

The Youth Apprenticeship program combines industry-directed, competency-based, paid learning with related classroom instruction for high school juniors and seniors. It is a program that can present employers with an additional pipeline of workers to meet their future skill needs.

Pupils Enrolled in Home-based Private Ed. Program – Options

“Home-based private educational program” means a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child’s parent or guardian or by a person designated by the parent or guardian. An instructional program provided to more than one family unit does not constitute a home-based private educational program.

Attendance in the public school by pupils enrolled in a home-based private educational program is allowed for a pupil who has met the standards for admission to the course and may attend up to 2 courses at a public school in the district during each school semester if the school board determines that there is sufficient space in the classroom. Also, a pupil enrolled in a home-based private educational program and attending a public school under this section may attend one course in each of 2 school districts, but may not attend more than 2 courses in any semester.

In addition, the Law: State Statute 118.133, provides for participation in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities to a pupil who resides in the school district and is enrolled in a home-based private educational program. Students may participate in interscholastic athletics in the school district on the same basis and to the same extent that pupils enrolled in the school district participate. The home-based educational program in which the pupil is enrolled shall provide the school board with a written statement that the pupil meets the school board’s requirements for participation in interscholastic athletics based on age and academic and disciplinary records. No person may provide a false statement under this paragraph.

A school board may charge a pupil who participates in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities as permitted under this section participation fees, including fees for uniforms, equipment, and musical instruments, on the same basis and to the same extent that it charges these fees to a pupil who is enrolled in the school district.

2022-2023 State Report Card Results

As required by sections 118.57 (2); 120.123; and 115.38 of the state statutes, the following is a description of school and school district performance categories, notice of reports posted on district website and parent rights to receive full copies of school and school district report cards.

School District of Athens		
School	Grades Served	Performance Category
Athens Elementary	Grade 4K - 5	Meets Expectations
Maple Grove Charter School	Grade K - 5	Meets Expectations
Athens Middle School	Grades 6 - 8	Meets Expectations
Athens High School	Grade 9 - 12	Meets Expectations
District	Grades Served	Performance Category
School District of Athens	Grades 4K - 12	Meets Expectations

Complete school and district report cards have been posted to the School District of Athens webpage at www.athens1.org.